

Message Text

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TO SEC/USAF WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4777

FOR HAROLD W. MAYNARD, CAPTAIN,USAF

SEC/USAF FOR DOOLIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA

SUBJ: CAPTAIN MAYNARD'S RESEARCH

1. WE REGRET THE INCONVENIENCES THAT OUR LATE
DECISION AGAINST CAPTAIN MAYNARD'S RESEARCH MAY HAVE CAUSED
HIM. WE, NEVERTHELESS, CANNOT APPROVE OR SUPPORT RESEARCH IN
THAILAND OF THE TYPE HE PROPOSES.

2. COLONEL KOERNIG'S MARCH 18 LETTER TO MAYNARD OUTLINES THE
REASONS FOR OUR DECISION IN DETAIL. THE CURRENT POLITICAL
SITUATION IN THAILAND IS INCREASINGLY POLARIZED. STUDENTS
AND OTHER POLITICAL ACTIVISTS ARE HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO INFERENCES
THAT AMERICANS MIGHT BE INTERFERING IN THAI INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
THEY EXAGGERATE AND MISCONSTRUE ANY INCIDENT OR ACTION INVOLVING
AMERICANS. THEY CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT
AMERICANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE THAI MILITARY BACK IN POWER,
AND MIGHT EVEN BE ENCOURAGING THE THAI GENERALS IN THIS
REGARD. CAPTAIN MAYNARD'S APPEARANCE ON THE SCENE AND
HIS INTERVIEWS COULD NOT BE KEPT SECRET. THE ACTIVISTS
WOULD CHARGE THAT HE WAS PROOF POSITIVE OF HOW THE AMERICAN
MILITARY STILL TRY TO INTERFERE IN THAI POLITICS.

3. OUR DECISION AGAINST THE MAYNARD STUDY IS NOT ISOLATED.
WE HAVE OVER THE PAST YEAR DENIED CLEARANCE TO AT LEAST
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TWO OTHER SCHOLARS SEEKING TO UNDERTAKE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE

RESEARCH IN THAILAND. ALL OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS WILL
APPLY TO ALL SUCH AMERICAN SUPPORTED SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
WITH POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS FROM WHATEVER SOURCE FOR THE
FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
MASTERS

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